House File 275 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 275
BY ANDERSON

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act requiring minimum paid sick and safe time for employees,
- 2 providing a penalty, and including applicability provisions.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 91F.1 Title.
- 2 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Healthy
- 3 and Safe Family and Workplace Act".
- 4 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 91F.2 Public policy.
- 5 It is the public policy of this state to protect public
- 6 health and safety and to promote the general welfare of its
- 7 citizens. To accomplish this, the state supports employers'
- 8 efforts to encourage employees to work when they are healthy
- 9 and protects the basic workplace rights of workers to safeguard
- 10 public health by remaining home when they are ill.
- 11 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 91F.3 Definitions.
- 12 1. "Commissioner" means the labor commissioner appointed
- 13 pursuant to section 91.2, or the commissioner's designee.
- 2. "Domestic abuse" includes domestic abuse as defined in
- 15 section 236.2 and domestic abuse assault as defined in section
- 16 708.2A.
- 3. "Employee" means an employee as defined in the federal
- 18 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. §201 et seq., as
- 19 amended, who is employed in this state for compensation.
- 20 4. "Employer" means any person who employs an employee for
- 21 compensation in this state.
- 22 5. "Family member" means any individual related to an
- 23 employee by consanguinity or affinity including the following:
- 24 a. An employee's spouse or domestic partner.
- 25 b. A child or stepchild; foster child; legal ward; a child
- 26 of a domestic partner; or a child to whom the employee stands
- 27 in loco parentis.
- 28 c. A parent or stepparent; foster parent; legal guardian;
- 29 or a person who stood in loco parentis to the employee when the
- 30 employee was a minor child.
- 31 d. A grandparent or spouse or domestic partner of a
- 32 grandparent.
- 33 e. A grandchild, stepgrandchild, or foster grandchild.
- 34 f. A sibling or stepsibling; foster sibling; or spouse or
- 35 domestic partner of a sibling, stepsibling, or foster sibling.

- 1 g. An aunt or uncle.
- 2 h. Any other individual related to the employee by
- 3 consanguinity or affinity or whose close association with the
- 4 employee is the equivalent of a familial relationship.
- 5 6. "Health care professional" means a person licensed to
- 6 provide medical care, mental health care, or dentistry by the
- 7 state of Iowa.
- 8 7. "Other violent crime" means a crime causing, meant to
- 9 cause, or threatening to cause personal injury to a person.
- 10 8. "Retaliatory personnel action" means discharge,
- 11 suspension, demotion, unfavorable reassignment, refusal to
- 12 promote, disciplinary action, or any other adverse action taken
- 13 by an employer against an employee.
- 9. "Sexual abuse" includes sexual abuse as defined in
- 15 section 709.1 and incest pursuant to section 726.2.
- 16 10. "Sick and safe time" means time that is compensated
- 17 at the same hourly rate and with the same benefits, including
- 18 health care benefits, as the employee normally earns during
- 19 hours worked and is provided by an employer to an employee for
- 20 the purposes described in section 91F.5. In no instance shall
- 21 the hourly wage be less than that provided in section 91D.1.
- 22 11. "Stalking" means the same as described in section
- 23 708.11.
- 24 12. "Victim" or "victim of crime" means a victim of domestic
- 25 abuse, sexual abuse, stalking, other violent crime, or the
- 26 surviving family member of a murder victim.
- 27 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 91F.4 Accrual sick and safe time.
- 28 1. An employee shall have the right to accrue and use sick
- 29 and safe time as provided in this chapter.
- 30 2. a. An employee shall accrue sick and safe time equal to
- 31 at least four percent of the hours worked for the first forty
- 32 hours worked.
- 33 b. An employee shall not accrue more than eighty-three hours
- 34 of sick and safe time in a calendar year, unless the employer
- 35 selects a higher accrual percentage or limit.

- 3. Employees who are exempt from overtime requirements
- 2 under section 13(a)(1) of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act
- 3 of 1938, 29 U.S.C. §213(a)(1), are deemed to work forty hours
- 4 in each work week for purposes of sick and safe time accrual
- 5 unless their normal work week is less than forty hours, in
- 6 which case sick and safe time accrues based upon that normal
- 7 work week.
- 8 4. Sick and safe time as provided in this section shall
- 9 begin to accrue upon the commencement of employment for new
- 10 employees hired on or after January 1, 2022, and for existing
- 11 employees beginning January 1, 2022.
- 12 5. An employee may use accrued sick and safe time beginning
- 13 on the twenty-first calendar day following commencement of the
- 14 employee's employment. On and after the twenty-first calendar
- 15 day of employment, an employee may use sick and safe time as it
- 16 accrues.
- 17 6. Accrued sick and safe time shall be carried over for one
- 18 calendar year or fiscal year, whichever the employer designates
- 19 as a work year, or longer if the employer sets a longer
- 20 carryover period, subject to the limit described in subsection
- 21 2, paragraph b''.
- 22 7. An employer with a leave policy that makes available
- 23 an amount of leave sufficient to meet the minimum accrual
- 24 requirements of this section, or a greater amount, that may
- 25 be used for the same purposes and under the same conditions
- 26 as sick and safe time under this chapter is not required to
- 27 provide additional sick and safe time beyond the employer's
- 28 existing leave policy.
- 29 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring
- 30 financial or other reimbursement to an employee from an
- 31 employer upon the employee's termination, resignation,
- 32 retirement, or other separation from employment for accrued
- 33 sick and safe time that has not been used.
- 9. a. If an employee is transferred to a separate division,
- 35 entity, or location, but remains employed by the same employer,

- 1 the employee is entitled to all sick and safe time previously
- 2 accrued, is entitled to use all accrued sick and safe time as
- 3 provided in this chapter, and shall continue to accrue sick and
- 4 safe time at the same rate or higher as before the transfer.
- 5 b. When there is a separation from employment and the
- 6 employee is rehired within six months of the separation by
- 7 the same employer, previously accrued sick and safe time not
- 8 used prior to the date of separation shall be reinstated. The
- 9 employee may use such accrued sick and safe time upon rehire,
- 10 and sick and safe time shall begin to accrue upon rehire.
- 11 10. At the employer's discretion, the employer may advance
- 12 sick and safe time to an employee ahead of accrual of such time
- 13 by the employee.
- 14 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 91F.5 Use of sick and safe time -
- 15 purposes procedures.
- 16 l. Sick and safe time shall be provided to an employee by an
- 17 employer for the following purposes:
- 18 a. An employee's mental or physical illness, injury, or
- 19 health condition; an employee's need for medical diagnosis,
- 20 care, or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury,
- 21 or health condition; an employee's need for preventive mental
- 22 health or medical care.
- 23 b. An employee's need to care for a family member with a
- 24 mental or physical illness, injury, or health condition; an
- 25 employee's need to care for a family member who needs medical
- 26 diagnosis, care, or treatment of a mental or physical illness,
- 27 injury, or health condition; an employee's need to care for a
- 28 family member who needs preventive mental health or medical
- 29 care.
- 30 c. (1) Closure of the employee's place of work by order of
- 31 a public official due to a public health emergency.
- 32 (2) An employee's need to care for a family member whose
- 33 school or place of care has been closed by order of a public
- 34 official due to a public health emergency.
- 35 (3) An employee's need to care for a family member when

- 1 public health authorities or a health care professional has
- 2 determined that the family member's presence in the community
- 3 jeopardizes the health of others because of the family member's
- 4 exposure to communicable disease, whether or not the family
- 5 member has actually contracted the communicable disease.
- 6 d. An employee's need to be absent from work due to having
- 7 been a victim of crime, provided the leave from work is to do
- 8 one or more of the following:
- 9 (1) Seek medical attention for the employee or family member
- 10 to recover from physical or psychological injury or disability
- ll caused by having been a victim of crime.
- 12 (2) Obtain services or counseling from a victim services
- 13 organization, licensed social worker, marital and family
- 14 therapist, mental health counselor, psychologist, or
- 15 psychiatrist.
- 16 (3) Seek relocation or change of residence due to having
- 17 been a victim of crime.
- 18 (4) Take legal action, including reporting the crime to law
- 19 enforcement and preparing for or participating in any civil or
- 20 criminal legal proceeding related to or resulting from having
- 21 been a victim of crime.
- 22 e. An employee's need to attend a school conference or
- 23 function of the employee's child, foster child, or stepchild.
- 24 An employee shall use no more than twenty hours of sick and
- 25 safe time per calendar year or fiscal year, whichever the
- 26 employer designates as a work year, for this purpose.
- 27 2. Sick and safe time shall be allowed upon the written or
- 28 oral request of an employee. When possible, the employee shall
- 29 include the expected duration of the employee's absence in the
- 30 request.
- 31 3. When the use of sick and safe time is foreseeable, the
- 32 employee shall make a good faith effort to provide notice
- 33 of the need for such time to the employer in advance of the
- 34 use of the sick and safe time, and the employee shall make a
- 35 reasonable effort to schedule the use of sick and safe time in

- 1 a manner that does not unduly disrupt the operations of the 2 employer.
- 4. Accrued sick and safe time may be used in hourly
- 4 increments or in the smallest increment that the employer's
- 5 payroll system uses to account for absences or use of time.
- 6 5. a. For sick and safe time that extends more than
- 7 three consecutive days, an employer may require reasonable
- 8 documentation that the sick and safe time is for the purposes
- 9 described in subsection 1. Reasonable documentation shall
- 10 include but not be limited to the following:
- 11 (1) Documentation signed by a health care professional
- 12 indicating that sick time is necessary.
- 13 (2) A law enforcement form, document, or report; a court
- 14 order; or a statement from a victim and witness advocate
- 15 affirming that the employee is involved in legal action
- 16 relating to having been a victim of crime.
- 17 (3) A signed statement from a certified victim advocate
- 18 affirming that the employee is changing residences as a result
- 19 of having been a victim of crime.
- 20 (4) Documentation from the school including a school
- 21 calendar, a statement from a teacher, or other statement from
- 22 an appropriate school official.
- 23 b. An employer shall not require that the documentation
- 24 explain the nature of the health care or legal action that is
- 25 the reason for the use of sick and safe time or the details of
- 26 the domestic abuse, sexual abuse, stalking, or murder.
- 27 c. If an employer chooses to require documentation from
- 28 an employee for use of sick and safe time, the employer is
- 29 responsible for paying any costs charged to the employee by
- 30 a health care provider or other entity for providing the
- 31 specific documentation required by the employer. If the
- 32 employee has health insurance that covers any portion of the
- 33 costs of obtaining such documentation, the employer shall only

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- 34 be responsible for paying costs that are not covered by the
- 35 employee's health insurance.

- 1 6. An employer shall not require as a condition of allowing
- 2 sick and safe time under this chapter that the employee search
- 3 for or find a replacement worker to cover the hours during
- 4 which the employee will be using sick and safe time.
- 5 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 91F.6 Exercise of rights -
- 6 retaliation prohibited.
- 7 l. An employer or any other person in the workplace shall
- 8 not interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of, or the
- 9 attempt to exercise, any right protected under this chapter.
- 10 2. An employer shall not take retaliatory personnel action
- 11 or discriminate against an employee because the employee has
- 12 exercised rights protected under this chapter. Such rights
- 13 include but are not limited to the following:
- 14 a. The right to use sick and safe time pursuant to this
- 15 chapter.
- 16 b. The right to file a complaint or inform any person about
- 17 any employer's alleged violation of this chapter.
- 18 c. The right to cooperate with the commissioner in any
- 19 investigation of alleged violations of this chapter.
- 20 d. The right to inform any person of the person's potential
- 21 rights under this chapter.
- 22 3. An employer's absence control policy shall not count
- 23 sick and safe time taken pursuant to this chapter as an absence
- 24 that may lead to or result in discipline, discharge, demotion,
- 25 suspension, unfavorable reassignment, refusal to promote, or
- 26 any other adverse action.
- 27 4. The protections of this section shall apply to any person
- 28 who mistakenly but in good faith alleges a violation of this
- 29 section.
- 30 5. There is a rebuttable presumption of retaliation under
- 31 this section whenever an employer takes adverse action against
- 32 an employee within ninety days of when that employee has done
- 33 any of the following:
- 34 a. Filed a complaint with the commissioner or a court
- 35 alleging a violation of any provision of this chapter.

- b. Informed any person about an employer's alleged violation
 of this chapter.
- 3 c. Cooperated with the commissioner or others in an
- 4 investigation or prosecution of any alleged violation of this
- 5 chapter.
- 6 d. Opposed any policy, practice, or act that is unlawful
- 7 under this chapter.
- 8 e. Informed any person of the person's potential rights
- 9 under this chapter.
- 10 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 91F.7 Notice and posting.
- 11 1. An employer shall give notice to employees of the
- 12 following:
- 13 a. That employees are entitled to sick and safe time.
- 14 b. The accrual amounts of sick and safe time.
- 15 c. The terms of use of sick and safe time quaranteed under
- 16 this chapter.
- 17 d. The prohibition against retaliation against employees who
- 18 request or use sick and safe time.
- 19 e. Each employee has the right to file a complaint or
- 20 bring a civil action if sick and safe time as required by
- 21 this chapter is denied by the employer, or the employee is
- 22 retaliated against for requesting or taking sick and safe time.
- 23 2. a. An employer may comply with this section by supplying
- 24 each employee with a notice that contains all the information
- 25 required in subsection 1.
- 26 b. An employer may comply with this section by displaying a
- 27 poster and other informational materials in a conspicuous and
- 28 accessible place in each establishment where such employees
- 29 are employed which contains all the information required in
- 30 subsection 1.
- 31 3. An employer who willfully violates the notice and posting
- 32 requirements of this section shall be subject to a civil
- 33 penalty in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars for each
- 34 separate offense.
- 35 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 91F.8 Damages recoverable by an

1 employee.

- 2 In an action by an employee against the employee's employer
- 3 or former employer for an alleged violation of this chapter,
- 4 when it has been shown that the employer intentionally failed
- 5 to provide or allow the use of sick and safe time to the
- 6 employee in violation of this chapter, the employer shall be
- 7 liable to the employee for the monetary value of the owed sick
- 8 and safe time, plus liquidated damages for failure to allow the
- 9 employee to use accrued sick and safe time, court costs, and
- 10 any attorney fees incurred in the civil action.
- 11 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 91F.9 Employer records.
- 12 1. An employer shall retain records documenting hours
- 13 worked by employees and all leave, including sick and safe
- 14 time, taken by employees, for a period of five years.
- 2. An employer shall allow the commissioner access to such
- 16 records, with notice and at a mutually agreeable time, to
- 17 monitor compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
- 18 3. If an issue arises as to an employee's entitlement to
- 19 sick and safe time under this chapter and the employer does not
- 20 maintain or retain adequate records according to this section
- 21 or does not allow the commissioner access to such records, the
- 22 commissioner or other investigating authority shall presume
- 23 that the employer has violated this chapter, absent clear and
- 24 convincing evidence otherwise.
- 25 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 91F.10 Enforcement.
- 26 l. Upon the written complaint of the employee involved,
- 27 the commissioner may determine whether to investigate if
- 28 an employer has violated any provision of this chapter.
- 29 The commissioner shall keep confidential, to the extent
- 30 permitted by applicable law, the name of and other identifying
- 31 information about the employee reporting the alleged violation.
- 32 However, the commissioner, with the authorization of the
- 33 complaining employee, may disclose the employee's name and
- 34 other information as necessary to enforce this chapter or for
- 35 other appropriate purposes.

- 1 2. If for any reason the commissioner makes a determination
- 2 not to investigate, the commissioner shall notify the
- 3 complaining employee within fourteen days of receipt of
- 4 the complaint. The commissioner shall otherwise notify
- 5 the employee of the determination to investigate within
- 6 a reasonable time. If it is determined that there is an
- 7 enforceable claim, the commissioner, with the consent of the
- 8 complaining employee and with the assistance of the office
- 9 of the attorney general if the commissioner requests such
- 10 assistance, shall, unless a settlement is reached, commence a
- 11 civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover
- 12 for the benefit of any employee any sick and safe time claims
- 13 that have been assigned to the commissioner for recovery.
- 14 The commissioner may also request reasonable and necessary
- 15 attorney fees. With the consent of the assigning employee, the
- 16 commissioner may also settle a claim on behalf of the assigning
- 17 employee.
- 18 3. Proceedings under this section that precede commencement
- 19 of a civil action shall be conducted informally without any
- 20 party having a right to be heard before the commissioner. The
- 21 commissioner may join various assignments in one claim for the
- 22 purpose of settling or litigating the assignees' claims.
- 23 4. The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 shall not be
- 24 construed to prevent an employee from settling or bringing an
- 25 action for damages under section 91F.8 if the employee has not
- 26 assigned the claim under subsection 2.
- 27 5. Any recovery of attorney fees, in the case of actions
- 28 brought under this section by the commissioner, shall be
- 29 remitted by the commissioner to the treasurer of state for
- 30 deposit in the general fund of the state. The commissioner is
- 31 not required to pay any filing fee or other court costs.
- 32 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 91F.11 Confidentiality and
- 33 nondisclosure.
- 34 1. An employer shall not require disclosure of details
- 35 relating to an employee or an employee's family member having

- 1 been a victim of crime or of the details of an employee's
- 2 medical or mental condition or that of a family member as a
- 3 condition of allowing sick and safe time under this chapter.
- 4 2. If an employer possesses health information or
- 5 information relating to an employee or an employee's family
- 6 member having been a victim of crime, such information shall
- 7 be treated as confidential and not disclosed except to the
- 8 affected employee or with the written permission of the
- 9 affected employee.
- 10 Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 91F.12 Other sick and safe time
- 11 policies legal requirements.
- 12 1. This chapter shall not be construed to discourage or
- 13 prohibit an employer from the adoption or retention of a sick
- 14 and safe time policy that is more generous than the minimum
- 15 requirements of this chapter.
- 16 2. This chapter shall not be construed as diminishing
- 17 the obligation of an employer to comply with any contract,
- 18 collective bargaining agreement, employment benefit plan, or
- 19 other agreement that provides more generous sick and safe time
- 20 to an employee than the minimum requirements of this chapter.
- 21 3. This chapter shall not be construed as diminishing the
- 22 rights of public employees regarding sick and safe time or the
- 23 use of sick and safe time as provided by state law.
- 24 4. This chapter provides minimum requirements pertaining
- 25 to sick and safe time and shall not be construed to preempt,
- 26 limit, or otherwise affect the applicability of any other law,
- 27 regulation, requirement, policy, or standard that provides for
- 28 greater accrual or use by employees of sick and safe time or
- 29 that extends other protections to employees.
- 30 Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. 91F.13 Sick and safe time posting.
- 31 1. The commissioner shall create a poster and other
- 32 informational materials that may be used by an employer for
- 33 public display. The poster and other informational materials
- 34 shall contain all the information required in section 91F.7,
- 35 subsection 1.

- An employer may apply to the commissioner for
- 2 authorization to display or distribute the poster and other
- 3 informational materials created by the commissioner. The
- 4 commissioner shall verify that an applicant offers at least
- 5 the minimum sick and safe time required by this chapter to all
- 6 employees in each establishment where the poster and other
- 7 informational materials will be displayed and is in compliance
- 8 with the requirements of this chapter. The commissioner shall
- 9 electronically transmit the poster and other informational
- 10 materials to any verified applicant.
- 11 Sec. 14. NEW SECTION. 91F.14 Rules.
- 12 The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
- 13 to administer this chapter.
- 14 Sec. 15. Section 84A.5, subsection 4, Code 2021, is amended
- 15 to read as follows:
- 16 4. The division of labor services is responsible for the
- 17 administration of the laws of this state under chapters 88,
- 18 88A, 88B, 89, 89A, 89B, 90A, 91, 91A, 91C, 91D, 91E, 91F, 92,
- 19 and 94A, and sections 73A.21 and 85.68. The executive head of
- 20 the division is the labor commissioner, appointed pursuant to
- 21 section 91.2.
- Sec. 16. Section 91.4, subsection 2, Code 2021, is amended
- 23 to read as follows:
- 24 2. The director of the department of workforce development,
- 25 in consultation with the labor commissioner, shall, at the
- 26 time provided by law, make an annual report to the governor
- 27 setting forth in appropriate form the business and expense of
- 28 the division of labor services for the preceding year, the
- 29 number of remedial actions taken under chapter 89A, the number
- 30 of disputes or violations processed by the division and the
- 31 disposition of the disputes or violations, and other matters
- 32 pertaining to the division which are of public interest,
- 33 together with recommendations for change or amendment of the
- 34 laws in this chapter and chapters 88, 88A, 88B, 89, 89A, 89B,
- 35 90A, 91A, 91C, 91D, 91E, 91F, 92, and 94A, and section 85.68,

- 1 and the recommendations, if any, shall be transmitted by the
- 2 governor to the first general assembly in session after the
- 3 report is filed.
- 4 Sec. 17. APPLICABILITY. Notwithstanding the section of
- 5 this Act relating to applicability of this Act on or after
- 6 January 1, 2022, this Act does not apply to employees under a
- 7 contract or collective bargaining agreement that was in effect
- 8 before January 1, 2022.
- 9 Sec. 18. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to all existing
- 10 employees on and after January 1, 2022, and to all new
- ll employees hired on or after that date.
- 12 EXPLANATION
- The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 15 This bill, entitled the "Healthy and Safe Family and
- 16 Workplace Act", requires minimum paid sick and safe time for
- 17 all employees employed in the state in new Code chapter 91F.
- 18 The bill defines "sick and safe time" as time that is
- 19 compensated at the same hourly rate and with the same benefits,
- 20 including health care benefits, as the employee normally
- 21 earns during hours worked and is provided by an employer to
- 22 an employee for the purposes described in the bill. The bill
- 23 defines additional terms including "employee", "employer", and
- 24 "family member".
- 25 The bill provides that all employees shall have the right to
- 26 accrue and use sick and safe time. The formula for accruing
- 27 sick and safe time is contained in the bill, and there are
- 28 limits for the amount of sick and safe time an employee may
- 29 accrue per year, unless the employer sets a higher accrual
- 30 percentage or limit.
- 31 The bill provides a formula for accruing sick and safe time
- 32 and the limitations and exceptions. Sick and safe time shall
- 33 begin to accrue for new employees hired on or after January 1,
- 34 2022, on the first day of work and for existing employees on
- 35 January 1, 2022. Employees may use accrued sick and safe time

- 1 starting the 21st day of employment. Sick and safe time shall 2 carry over one year, but an employee shall not accrue more than
- 3 83 hours of sick and safe time per year.
- 4 An employer who provides a leave policy that meets the
- 5 minimum accrual requirements and the same minimum uses and
- 6 conditions is deemed to be in compliance with the bill. The
- 7 bill does not require employees to be reimbursed for unused
- 8 sick and safe time upon separation from employment. However,
- 9 if an employee is moved or transferred within the company, the
- 10 employee shall retain and may use all accrued sick and safe
- 11 time. If there is an employment separation, but an employee
- 12 is rehired within six months, all accrued sick and safe time
- 13 shall be reinstated upon rehire and be available for immediate
- 14 use. An employer has the discretion to advance sick and safe
- 15 time to an employee.
- 16 The bill provides specific reasons for which employees may
- 17 use the sick and safe time. An employee shall give reasonable
- 18 notice to an employer when use of sick and safe time is
- 19 foreseeable and shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the
- 20 use of sick and safe time in a manner that does not unduly
- 21 disrupt the operations of the employer. When an employee
- 22 uses more than three consecutive days of sick and safe time,
- 23 an employer may require reasonable documentation that the
- 24 time used is covered as provided in the bill. If an employer
- 25 chooses to require documentation from an employee for use of
- 26 sick and safe time, the employer is responsible for paying
- 27 any costs charged to the employee by a health care provider
- 28 or other entity for providing the specific documentation
- 29 required by the employer. If the employee has health insurance
- 30 that covers any portion of the costs of obtaining such
- 31 documentation, the employer shall only be responsible for
- 32 paying costs that are not covered by the employee's health
- 33 insurance. An employer shall not require an employee to find a
- 34 replacement worker in order to use sick and safe time.
- 35 The bill provides an employee the right to use sick and safe

- 1 time to file a complaint against an employer, and various other
- 2 rights. The bill prohibits employer retaliation against an
- 3 employee exercising those rights.
- 4 Employers are required to give employees notice of their
- 5 rights to sick and safe time either by supplying each employee
- 6 with a notice or by posting such notice in an accessible and
- 7 obvious place where employees work. Violations of the notice
- 8 and posting requirements may result in a civil penalty of not
- 9 more than \$100 for each offense.
- 10 An employee may recover the monetary value of owed sick and
- 11 safe time plus liquidated damages for the wrongful denial of
- 12 use of accrued sick and safe time if an employer is shown to
- 13 have intentionally violated the bill.
- 14 An employer must retain records documenting hours worked
- 15 by each employee and the amount of leave, including sick and
- 16 safe time, taken by employees for five years. The labor
- 17 commissioner shall have reasonable access to these records. If
- 18 a question arises about an employee's right to sick and safe
- 19 time and an employer does not have adequate records or does not
- 20 allow the commissioner to examine the employer's records, the
- 21 commissioner shall presume that the employer has violated the
- 22 bill.
- 23 The bill authorizes an employee to submit a written
- 24 complaint to the commissioner, who will determine whether
- 25 to investigate the claim that an employer has violated any
- 26 provision of new Code chapter 91F. If the commissioner decides
- 27 to investigate, the commissioner shall commence a civil action
- 28 against the employer.
- 29 An employer shall not require an employee to disclose
- 30 details relating to having been a victim of crime or a medical
- 31 or mental condition as a condition of using sick and safe
- 32 time. An employer who has such information shall treat the
- 33 information as confidential and not disclose it without written
- 34 consent of the affected employee.
- 35 The bill provides that new Code chapter 91F does not prohibit

- 1 an employer from providing a more generous sick and safe
- 2 time policy than required by the bill, does not diminish an
- 3 employer's previous contractual obligations for more generous
- 4 sick and safe time, and does not diminish public employees'
- 5 other rights to sick and safe time as provided by law.
- 6 The commissioner is required to create a poster and other
- 7 informational materials which an employer may use for public
- 8 display. The poster and other informational materials must
- 9 comply with the notice requirements for sick and safe time
- 10 provided in the bill. The commissioner is to make the poster
- 11 and other informational materials available to an employer upon
- 12 verification of compliance with the bill.
- 13 The bill applies to all existing employees on and after
- 14 January 1, 2022, and to all new hires on or after that date,
- 15 but does not apply to employees under contracts or collective
- 16 bargaining agreements in effect before January 1, 2022.